

must promulgate policy materials and instructions for use by State and local staff to determine the appropriateness of and necessity for the foster care placement of the child. The case plan for each child must:

(1) Be a written document, which is a discrete part of the case record, in a format determined by the State, which is available to the parent(s) or guardian of the foster child; and

(2) Be developed within a reasonable period, to be established by the State, but in no event later than 60 days starting at the time the State agency assumes responsibility for providing services including placing the child; and

(3) Include a discussion of how the plan is designed to achieve a placement in the least restrictive (most family-like) setting available and in close proximity to the home of the parent(s), consistent with the best interest and special needs of the child; and

(4) After October 1, 1983, include a description of the services offered and the services provided to prevent removal of the child from the home and to reunify the family.

(This requirement has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget under OMB Control Number 0980-0140)

(e) If a State chooses to claim FFP for the costs of voluntary foster care maintenance payment; chooses to transfer funds from title IV-E to title IV-B, or certifies compliance with the requirements of section 427 of the Act, it must, among other requirements, meet the requirements for dispositional hearings in section 475(5)(C) of the Act. In meeting the requirements of section 475(5)(C), the dispositional hearing must take place within 18 months of the date of the original foster care placement and within reasonable, specific, time-limited periods to be established by the State. The provisions of this paragraph and section 475(5)(C) of the Act must apply to all children under the responsibility for placement and care of the title IV-E/IV-B State agency except:

(1) For those children who are placed in a court sanctioned permanent foster family home placement with a specific care giver, no subsequent dispositional

hearings are required during the continuation of that specific permanent placement. If the foster care placement of such a child is subsequently changed, the child is again entitled to dispositional hearings.

(2) For those children who are free for adoption and are placed in adoptive homes pending the finalization of the adoption, no subsequent dispositional hearings are required during the continuation of that placement. If such a child is not adopted within a reasonable time after placement, the child is again entitled to dispositional hearings.

(f) For purposes of meeting the requirements of the Act and regulation with respect to paragraphs (c), (d) and (e) of this section, 45 CFR 1356.30(b) and sections 471(a)(16) and 475(5) of the Act, the following definition applies: *Original foster care placement* means the date of the child's most recent removal from his home and placement into foster care under the care and responsibility of the State agency. This definition is the point in time used in calculating all time periods related to the case review system. (See also section 475(5) of the Act.)

(g) In meeting the requirements of section 471(a)(11) of the Act, the State must review at reasonable, specific, time-limited periods to be established by the State:

(1) The amount of the payment made for foster care maintenance and adoption assistance to assure their continued appropriateness; and

(2) The licensing or approval standards for child care institutions and foster family homes.

(h) The specific foster care goals required under section 471(a)(14) of the Act must be incorporated into State law by statute or administrative regulation provided such administrative regulation has the force of law.

[48 FR 23115, May 23, 1983]

**§ 1356.30 Implementation requirements for children voluntarily placed in foster care.**

(a) As a condition of receipt of Federal financial participation (FFP) in foster care maintenance payments for a dependent child removed from his home under a voluntary placement

agreement, the State must meet the requirements of:

(1) Section 472 of the Act (as amended by section 102(a) of Pub. L. 96-272);

(2) Section 102(d) of Pub. L. 96-272;

(3) Sections 427(b) and 475(5) of the Act;

(4) 45 CFR 1356.21 (e) and (f); and

(5) The requirements of this section.

(b) Federal financial participation is available only for voluntary foster care maintenance expenditures made within the first 180 days after the date of the original foster care placement unless there has been a judicial determination by a court of competent jurisdiction within the first 180 days of the date of that original placement to the effect that the continued voluntary placement is in the best interests of the child.

(c) The State agency must establish and maintain a uniform procedure or system, consistent with State law, for revocation by the parent(s) of a voluntary placement agreement and return of the child.

[48 FR 23116, May 23, 1983]

**§ 1356.40 Adoption assistance program: Administrative requirements to implement section 473 of the Act.**

(a) To implement the adoption assistance program provisions of the title IV-E State plan and to be eligible for Federal financial participation in adoption assistance payments under this part, the State must meet the requirements of this section and sections 471(a), 473 and 475(3) of the Act.

(b) The adoption assistance agreement for payments pursuant to section 473(a)(2) must meet the requirements of section 475(3) of the Act and must:

(1) Be signed and in effect at the time of or prior to the final decree of adoption. A copy of the signed agreement must be given to each party; and

(2) Specify its duration; and

(3) Specify the nature and amount of any payment, services and assistance to be provided under such agreement and, for purposes of eligibility under title XIX of the Act, specify that the child is eligible for Medicaid services; and

(4) Specify, with respect to agreements entered into on or after October 1, 1983, that the agreement shall re-

main in effect regardless of the State of which the adoptive parents are residents at any given time.

(c) There must be no income eligibility requirement (means test) for the prospective adoptive parent(s) in determining eligibility for adoption assistance payments.

(d) In the event an adoptive family moves from one State to another State, the family may apply for social services on behalf of the adoptive child in the new State of residence. However, for agreements entered into on or after October 1, 1983, if a needed service(s) specified in the adoption assistance agreement is not available in the new State of residence, the State making the original adoption assistance payment remains financially responsible for providing the specified service(s).

(e) A State may make an adoption assistance agreement with adopting parent(s) who reside in another State. If so, all provisions of this section apply.

(f) The State agency must actively seek ways to promote the adoption assistance program.

[48 FR 23116, May 23, 1983, as amended at 53 FR 50220, Dec. 14, 1988]

**§ 1356.41 Nonrecurring expenses of adoption.**

(a) The amount of the payment made for nonrecurring expenses of adoption shall be determined through agreement between the adopting parent(s) and the State agency administering the program. The agreement must indicate the nature and amount of the nonrecurring expenses to be paid.

(b) The agreement for nonrecurring expenses may be a separate document or a part of an agreement for either State or Federal adoption assistance payments or services. The agreement for nonrecurring expenses must be signed prior to the final decree of adoption, with two exceptions:

(1) Cases in which the final decree of adoption was entered into on or after January 1, 1987 and within six months after the effective date of the final rule; or

(2) Cases in which a final decree was entered into before January 1, 1987 but nonrecurring adoption expenses were paid after January 1, 1987.